

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 115
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend former Cookeville Mayor Luke Medley on receiving the "Pride of Putnam" Award.

WHEREAS, in the course of our state's history, there have emerged unusual men and women who have achieved great personal success and have given of themselves and their talents to public service; and

WHEREAS, Luke Medley is one such Tennessean who, through the course of his life's work as a former mayor, broadcasting pioneer and community leader, has contributed enormously to both the business world and to public service; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 1996, Luke Medley successfully received one of the highest honors bestowed by his home county, the "Pride of Putnam" Award, sponsored by Leadership Putnam Alumni, the Herald-Citizen and the Putnam Bicentennial Committee; and

WHEREAS, his background is a sterling example of inspiration and personal integrity, one to be studied by generations to come; and

WHEREAS, a native of Putnam County, Luke Medley was born on June 25, 1907 in Buffalo Valley to Z. A. and Sarah Judd Medley; and

WHEREAS, as a young man working in his father's store, he decided to start a radio station; he later founded WHUB-AM, Cookeville, in 1939; and

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WHEREAS, on July 20, 1940, on its first day of broadcast, WHUB-AM became the first small-market radio station in Middle Tennessee, and for seven years was the only radio station in the Upper Cumberland region; and

WHEREAS, Luke Medley expertly guided his small station from operating on only eight hundred dollars a month in the beginning, to becoming an affiliate of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) in just four years; and

WHEREAS, with acuity and determination, Luke Medley continued to successfully operate WHUB-AM as a family-owned small-market station for more than half a century before its sale to a national communications group; and

WHEREAS, among his many pioneering efforts in broadcasting is his role in the formation of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, an organization that continues to have a definite impact on the communication industry even today; and

WHEREAS, Luke Medley's business acumen is matched only by his remarkable record in public service; and

WHEREAS, his entry into politics as an elected official was in 1935 when he was elected to the Putnam County Quarterly Court, forerunner of the Putnam County Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Luke Medley was elected Putnam County Judge, equivalent today to a county executive but carrying with it the multiple responsibilities of Probate Judge, Juvenile Judge and Chief Financial Officer; he served in this position from 1950 to 1958 and again from 1966 to 1974; and

WHEREAS, he continued to influence the political arena and was elected Mayor of Cookeville for two terms beginning in 1958; and

WHEREAS, as a public official, Luke Medley led the way for many positive changes in the city of Cookeville and Putnam County, including the building of a new hospital, county library and city hall, the establishment of an area Chamber of Commerce, the purchase of land for outside industry and the move toward a regional airport; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed by the late former Governor Frank Clement to a five-member commission charged with routing Interstate 40 through Tennessee, and with his leadership, made it possible for the Interstate to run through Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, Luke Medley has given of his time and his energies to a number of service organizations, among them the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Upper Cumberland Development District, all devoted to helping their communities; and

WHEREAS, honors and accomplishments aside, Luke Medley is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Pauline Maddux Medley, and the adoration, love and respect he has for his three fine sons, Martin, Mike and Don; and

WHEREAS, Luke Medley represents the finest qualities of a husband, father, business pioneer, public servant and community leader; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend our fellow public servant, Luke Medley, on receiving the "Pride of Putnam" Award, and extend to him our admiration and sincere appreciation for his years of service to the people of Cookeville, Putnam County and the State of Tennessee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Luke Medley with this final clause omitted from such copy.